

# THE EXPRESS

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #149  
Wadesboro, NC  
28170

Postal  
Customer

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • [TheExpressNews@gmail.com](mailto:TheExpressNews@gmail.com) • [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)

Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

## GrowGreen Power Announces \$250 Million Project in Anson County, 300 Jobs

Boulder, Colorado-based GrowGreen Power announced on July 5 that a site has been chosen in Anson County for a \$250 million project. According to a press release downloaded from [www.growgreenpower.com](http://www.growgreenpower.com), the project will integrate a 50-acre greenhouse with a 37-megawatt cogeneration plant, where tomatoes will be grown for commercial sale.

"Our team has worked diligently to find a location that fits our needs," said Bradley Nixon, Principal and CEO of GrowGreen Power. "Not only does Anson County provide what we need regarding our distribution and business requirements, but it's also an area that will genuinely benefit from the job opportunities that our development will offer." According to the press release, the project will mean over 300 permanent jobs for the county. The unique development provides communities with fresh foods and renewable energy by combining hydroponic greenhouses with a solar thermal/biomass power plant.



The announcement was good news for the county, which has registered double-digit employment numbers for 32 consecutive months - dating back to October 2008. The county's June jobless rate was 12.5%.

According to Nixon, GrowGreen Power is having ongoing, productive discussions with the North Carolina power companies regarding how the renewable energy it produces will enter the power grid. He added that GrowGreen Power has enjoyed a warm reception from North Carolina and Anson County's local leadership.

"We received a tremendous response when we first announced our intentions to come to North Carolina," Nixon said. "The support we've received from the community has been very positive and encouraging. We are excited to have our first project in North Carolina and we genuinely hope the folks here are just as excited to have us."

The hydroponic greenhouse is a fully controlled growing environment capable of producing up to 30 times more high quality, safe produce than traditional farming. Initially GrowGreen Anson County will produce tomatoes on the vine. US annual per capita use of tomatoes and tomato products has increased nearly 30 percent over the past 20 years according to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS).

The GrowGreen center's solar thermal and biomass power plant produces 43.65 megawatts of clean, renewable energy, about 37 megawatts of which will be sold to the local power grid. The remaining energy will be used to power the greenhouse and power plant, making the GrowGreen center fully sustainable. The electricity produced will provide local power companies the option to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), allowing them to meet state mandates requiring more and more energy come from renewable sources.

The site will be located on US Highway 52 near the Jeff Cloud Airport.

For more information, visit GrowGreen Power's website [www.growgreenpower.com](http://www.growgreenpower.com); call 919-457-9187; or address inquiries to the company's Raleigh office at 113 N. Boylan Ave., Raleigh, NC, 27603. Courtesy [www.ansonbiz-zine.biz](http://www.ansonbiz-zine.biz)

## Wadesboro Man Dies in Apartment Fire

On Saturday, August 6 during the early morning hours the Wadesboro Police and Fire Department were dispatched to an apartment fire at 309 West Short Plaza. When police officers arrived there was visible fire and heavy smoke coming from the apartment. The Wadesboro Fire Department arrived very shortly after. Once the fire was under control and firemen could make entry into the apartment they found Dennis James Thompson, 56, inside. Mr. Thompson was pronounced dead at the scene.

After a joint investigation from Wadesboro detectives and Wadesboro Fire Department officials the fire was determined to be accidental, originating from an electrical shortage. The cause of death to Mr. Thompson was smoke inhalation.

Police and fire officials urge everyone to please check their smoke detectors on a regular basis, and also have an evacuation plan ready in case of fire.

## Four Arrested for Break-In, Police Looking for Carson Alexander Love

On Monday, June 13 during the early morning hours the Wadesboro Police Department received a call in reference to a breaking and entering at a residence on White Store Road. Among the items stolen were electronic gear, money and clothing.

During a thorough investigation Wadesboro Police officers obtained information that the stolen items were being stored at a residence on Orchard Street in Wadesboro. A search warrant was obtained for the residence at 422 Orchard Street, where most of the stolen items were discovered hidden in the attic.

Four suspects have been arrested in relation to this crime. Their court dates are set for August 30, 2011. They are:

- Dexter Dwayne Lilly, 18, of 422 Orchard Street. Charged with Breaking and/or Entering, Larceny after Breaking/Entering, Possession of Stolen Goods/Property.
- Tisha Lilly, 19, also of 422 Orchard Street. Charged with Possession of Stolen Goods/Property.
- Ricky Hough, 18, of 421 White Store Road, Wadesboro. Charged with Breaking and/or Entering, Larceny after Breaking/Entering.
- Corey Alexander Bennett, 18, of 510 Woodland Drive, Wadesboro. Charged with Breaking and/or Entering, Larceny after Breaking/Entering.

Warrants are still outstanding on a fifth suspect, Carson Alexander Love, for Breaking and/or Entering and Larceny after Breaking/Entering. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Love they are asked to contact the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167 or the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188.

## Democratic Party Meeting

The Anson County Democratic Party will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 18th at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 6 p.m. All Democrats are urged to attend.

## A Little Rain Can't Stop the Rotary Club Cornhole Tourney!



The weather may have been enough to cancel the Summer Jam this past Friday, but it was not enough to cancel the Wadesboro Rotary Club's Cornhole Tournament. With a slight drizzle of rain, and 16 teams participating, alternate plans were being discussed as team by team fell by the wayside in the double elimination tournament. Teams were randomly selected and brackets formed, then play began just after 6 p.m.

Many local residents as well as participants from neighboring towns participated. In the end, First Place went

to the "Punishers" (Leon Dennis and Danny Carter). Second Place went to the "Panthers" (Tristian Carter and Christian Holt). Tristian is an "old pro" at only 8 years of age.

The tournament raised over \$700 for the young Rotarians Scholarship Fund. Sponsors for the event were Anson Family Optometric, Classic Graphics, H.W. Little & Co., Hornwood, Kiker Resource Management, and Pee Dee Electric.

The next tournament will be held on Saturday, October 8 during the annual People Fest celebration. Details will be coming soon.

## New Fair Books Available for 2011 Anson Expo & Fair

It is that time of year again. The fall is approaching, people are canning, and the 2011 Anson Ag Expo and Fair will be here in a month. So, make plans now to enter some of your handiwork in the competition.

Set aside a jar of canned goods, pick out a good looking plant, finish up a craft project, or get those photos printed. It is time to share your interests in a fun and community way. The fair will be here sooner than you think! The Ag Fair portion of the seventh annual Anson Ag Expo and Fair will be held Friday -Saturday, September 23-24 in the Ingram Room of the Lockhart-Taylor Center, SPCC, in Wadesboro. Note the location!

In answer to requests and feedback from previous years, all components of the fair will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from registration on Thursday, through judging and display. And, this year, the fair will be open for visitors starting on Friday night at 6 p.m.

The 2011 Fair Rules and Regulations Booklets have arrived, new format and all. Books are now available at the Cooperative Extension Center at 501 McLaurin Street. They are also available online at [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu) and can be downloaded in pdf format, complete with registration forms.

Remember that fair participation is open to youth as well. Age groups available for competition consist of: Pee Wee - 0 to 5 years, Pre-teen - 6 to 12, Teen - 13 to 19, and Adult - 20 and up. Entries in the categories of crafts, canned goods, ag products, photography, art and handicrafts will be welcomed for competition.

Items can also be entered into the "In Memoriam" and "Blast from the Past" categories. Items made by deceased loved ones can be entered in "In Memoriam" while items made prior to 2002 and never shown in a fair can be entered in "Blast from the Past."

Last year's county fair showcased 254 entries from 96 fair exhibitors. Participants received ribbons and were awarded a total of \$504 in premium money. This year promises to be attended just as well.

The County Fair is only one component of the annual Anson Ag Expo & Fair, slated this year to be held Friday and Saturday, September 23-24. Fair entries will be on display from 6 until 9 p.m. on the 23rd and again on the 24th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Ingram Room at SPCC. Mark your calendars now to enter items and then come out and see who the winners are.

For additional information, contact the Anson County Cooperative Extension Service at 704-694-2415. Be on the lookout for more information to come, including the South Atlantic Woodsmen's Association lumberjack competition, new adult and children's activities, the youth livestock show, vendor space for the Expo and much more.

Come out and join the fun. There is something for everyone. Celebrate agriculture in Anson.

## Arts Council Membership Drive Underway

In a release from the Arts Council: The Anson County Arts Council (ACAC) has had a very busy and successful year. We strive to introduce all kinds of artistic and cultural programs to all of Anson County residents as well as promote local artists. There is special emphasis on programs for children.

We need the community to know that this is not a government agency. We are not funded by the county or city. The ACAC is currently an all volunteer organization (although at some time in the future we may have to pay someone to help with the tremendous work load involved with this busy schedule). Our funding is obtained from fundraising events, donations (both individual and business), an occasional grant, and annual membership fees.

Our membership drive is currently underway. The membership year runs from August 2011 to August 2012. While a membership in the ACAC is mostly about support for the arts, there are some "perks." Sometimes we offer a member bonus at some event (coupon for free drink) or a reduced rate. At least twice a year we have a "member only" event.

The first member only event will happen August 27. There will be a reception prior to the Motown review performance in the Ansonia. The reception will be from 6:15 until 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Gallery adjoining the theatre. It will feature hors d'oeuvres, wine, and special treat introduction to Curtis McNair, Motown graphic artist, and the opportunity to view his work. Extra perk - ticket holders for the concert will have early entrance to the theatre directly from the ACAC. Anyone who is a current member (2011-2012) will be welcomed to this event.

A list of some of the ACAC programs during the last year:

- Weekly art activities at the middle school and high school, included furniture building and finishing, mask sculpture, poetry writing, digital editing, computer animation, wreath making, scrap booking, paintings with spray paint, metal art, and line dancing.

We like to bring theatre or something the children would not otherwise have the chance to see. Events for students included:

- Bright Star Touring Theatre's The Lady of Bullyburg at Wadesboro Primary School
- Heroes of the Underground Railroad at Anson High School and Anson Middle School
- Jack's Adventures in NC History at Ansonville, Lilesville, and Wadesboro Elementary Schools

- Bright Star Touring Theatre's Aesop's Fables at Morven Elementary School
- Workshops by renowned performance poet, Glenis Redmond, at Anson and New Tech High Schools
- Performances by Glenis Redmond at Anson Early College and the Ansonia Theatre. Members of the community were invited to the 2 performances.
- 2 Days of workshops at Wadesboro Elementary with children's writer, Carole Boston Weatherford.
- Co-sponsorship of Charlotte Children's Theatre's Tarradiddle Players' performances of If You Take a Mouse to School at the Ansonia for local children and their parents.

Events for the whole community include:

- Bach's Lunches included local entertainment
- Bowling for the Arts featured local potters
- People Fest Art for Kids
- Art and Soul Dinner Evening showcased local talent and diversity.
- Second Sunday Artists Receptions showcases and promotes local artists
- Student Art Crawl involved students from entire county
- Pin-hole Photography Show by New Tech Students
- Co-sponsorship of Stanley Chorale performance in Anson County
- Co-sponsorship of the newly-formed Anson Singers, a community chorus
- Ansonia concert featuring the Anson Singers, teen singer/songwriter Carson Hill, recording artist Matthew Gibson, and tribute artist Tony King
- Sponsorship of a student intern in lighting and sound
- Ansonia concert by Tim Hildebrandt & friends
- And of course...our biggest, (or longest) project, completion of the historic Ansonia Theatre renovation.

How you can help in 2011-2012:

- Renew your membership, or join for the first time. Call 704 694-4950 for forms or stop by Tues, Wed, or Thurs from 1-4 (or anytime the lights are on)
- Volunteer to help at council events.
- Buy tickets and attend council events.
- Invite your friends to join the Arts Council and attend events.
- Volunteer as a docent at the Arts Council or Olde Mill Gallery.

The Arts Council is located on South Rutherford Street next door to the Ansonia. The telephone number is 704-694-4950, email [ansonart@windstream.net](mailto:ansonart@windstream.net).

## Bach's Lunch is Today!

The Anson County Arts Council's Bach's Lunch is today, Wednesday, August 10, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. You are invited to enjoy chicken salad croissants, trimmings, plus dessert, and enjoy beautiful music with piano and vocals with Ken Caulder and Phyllis Dunlap.

## Compassionate Friends Meet

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families of deceased children of any age, meets at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 11 in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-8774 or 704-475-5005.

## Meeting Features Author Hal Duvall

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B. Allen Library on Monday, August 15 at 12 noon for a potluck lunch and author talk. The featured speaker is Hal Duvall, a self-publisher, from Cheraw. His first book was *Juniper Road* and positive feedback from his first novel motivated him for his second book, *The Vote*.

Everyone is invited come and bring a friend. For more information call the library at 704-694-5177.

## Shag Lessons

Anson County Parks and Recreation will be offering Shag dance lessons under the Valley Protein shelter at Little Park. This workshop will be held on Thursday, August 18th. There will be three time slots available: 6:30 will be for beginners, 7:30 will be shag line dance, and 8:30 is for the advanced.

The cost is \$10 per person per hour. Contact Wendell Small CPRP at (704) 694-5751. Registration will last until August 18th. Patty Blackmon of Carolina Shag will be the instructor for these lessons.

**FARMERS MARKETS**  
**UPTOWN WADESBORO**  
**Thursdays, 4-6pm**  
**on the Square**  
**HIGHWAY 52 SOUTH**  
**beside Wadesboro**  
**Primary School**  
**Wed & Sat, 7am-1pm**

Look inside for  
special inserts from  
**IGA**  
**Food Lion**  
**Capt D's**